

AFFIDAVIT OF SA Jeffrey Buckles

INTRODUCTION

Your Affiant, DEA SA Jeffrey Buckles, attest to the following:

Your Affiant is employed as a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") and has been employed with the DEA since 2014. Your Affiant is currently assigned to the Bismarck Post of Duty and is charged with investigating drug trafficking and money laundering violations. Your Affiant is also attached to the Metro Area Narcotics Task Force (MANTF) in Bismarck, North Dakota, and assists several other drug task forces in the state of North Dakota. Your Affiant has attended the Drug Enforcement Administration Basic Agent Academy in Quantico, Virginia, which has an emphasis in drug trafficking, money laundering, undercover operations, and electronic and physical surveillance procedures. Your Affiant has been involved in several investigations dealing with the possession, manufacture, distribution, and importation of controlled substances. Prior to working for the DEA, Your Affiant was a U.S. Probation Officer for the District of Eastern Wisconsin, and a Parole Officer for Commonwealth of Virginia.

The information contained in this affidavit is in support of the criminal complaint charging Kevon Donnel SAVAGE (DOB: 01-03-1995) with a violation of Title 21, United States Code 846.

This Affidavit is based upon information Your Affiant has learned from drug seizures by law enforcement, interviews of drug users and cooperating witnesses, Your Affiant's own observations, reading prepared reports, and from other information provided by law enforcement officers. Because This Affidavit is being submitted for the limited purposes of supporting This Application, Your Affiant has not included each and every fact known concerning this investigation. It would be nearly impossible to include all known factual information in this Affidavit. Instead, Your Affiant has provided a general overview of the investigation and has set forth only the specific facts necessary to establish probable cause to support This Application. The following paragraphs contain evidence to support that SAVAGE is involved in the distribution of controlled substances. Where statements of others are set forth in This Affidavit, they are set forth in substance and are not verbatim. The information contained in This Affidavit is based on Your Affiant's own personal knowledge, information gained through training and experience, in addition to information made and obtained by other law enforcement agents, witnesses and documents.

FACTS ESTABLISHING PROBABLE CAUSE

1. On 05-23-2019, Your Affiant as well as members of the Metro Area Narcotics Task Force (MANTF) served a state authorized search warrant at the Country Inn Suites, room 311, located at 3205 N. 14th Street, Bismarck, Burleigh County, North Dakota. Upon making entry into the hotel room, Kevon D. SAVAGE was observed coming out of the bathroom. SAVAGE was detained and placed in handcuffs. DEA TFO David Stewart located a bag of pills

in the toilet. The pills were later identified, using a pill identifier website, as Oxycodone-Hydrochloride 30 mg. Oxycodone-Hydrochloride is a Schedule II Controlled Substance. There were approximately 130 pills total, which were contained inside three plastic sandwich baggies, all contained inside one plastic zip-top baggie.


2. Your Affiant has participated in several investigations involving individuals from Detroit, Michigan, selling pills in Bismarck, Minot, and the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, North Dakota. Individuals source pills from Detroit, Michigan for approximately \$20.00 per pill, and later re-sell the pills for \$50.00 to \$70.00 per pill. Based on the total amount of pills located in SAVAGE's possession, the street value ranges from \$6,500.00 to \$9,100.00 in North Dakota. SAVAGE advised agents he obtains pills from Detroit, Michigan, for approximately \$17.00 to \$25.00, and re-sells them for \$55.00 in North Dakota. SAVAGE advised agents he has been coming to North Dakota to sell pills since 2015, has taken approximately 10 trips, and estimates he has distributed approximately 10,000 pills. SAVAGE advised he usually brings 200 to 1,000 pills per trip to North Dakota. SAVAGE advised he works with others in North Dakota to distribute pills, and that he had given his brother \$10,000.00 to take back to Michigan days prior to being arrested. His brother also had \$8,000.00 of his own money which he took back to Michigan, according to SAVAGE. SAVAGE also advised he tries to time his trips for when tribal enrollees get their checks

3. Your Affiant knows based on training and experience that a typical user will use 1-2 pills per day, and these pills are typically ingested by smoking. The quantity of pills located in SAVAGE's hotel room is not consistent with a user-amount. It should also be noted that there was no drug paraphernalia located in SAVAGE's hotel room. Most pill abusers will have aluminum foil, smoking tubes, and lighters in their possession.

Based on Your Affiant's involvement with this investigation and training and experience, Your Affiant believes that Kevon SAVAGE is actively involved in the distribution of controlled substances, namely Oxycodone-Hydrochloride.


Thus, Special Agent Jeffrey Buckles respectfully requests Your Honor and the Court to issue an arrest warrant for Kevon D. SAVAGE.

Further Sayeth Your Affiant



Special Agent Jeffrey Buckles
Drug Enforcement Administration
Bismarck Post of Duty

Subscribed and Sworn to before me, this 26 day of June, 2019.



Clare R. Hochhalter
United States Magistrate Judge
District of North Dakota